

D. Remarks

The claims are 1-3 and 6-20, with claims 1, 6, 8, 13 and 17 being independent. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of cancelled claims 4 and 5. Claims 6, 8, 13 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 has been amended to improve its form for reasons unrelated to patentability. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

The title of the invention is objected to by the Examiner for allegedly being not sufficiently descriptive. While Applicants disagree with the Examiner, solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the title and respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1-20 are objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner has alleged that the phrase “generatrix direction” does not make sense.

Applicants respectfully submit that Figs. 10A and 10C and the description in the specification on page 7, lines 15-21, and page 24, line 26 - page 25, line 7, clearly show the meaning of the phrase “generatrix direction” (i.e., direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the image-bearing member and perpendicular to the peripheral direction). Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,748,464 (Pannekoek). Claims 10-12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Pannekoek in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,260 B1 (Kataoka). Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Pannekoek in view of U.S. Patent No.

5,539,440 (Higuchi). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Pannekoek in view of JP 57-154260 (Shimizu). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Pannekoek in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,681 (Shiozawa). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Without agreeing with the propriety of the above rejections, and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have incorporated all of the features of claim 5 into claim 1 and have rewritten claims 6, 8, 13 and 17 in independent form. Accordingly, since the Examiner indicated that originally filed claims 5, 6, 8, 13 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in allowable form.

Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and the present case be passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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